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curate,” said Wedin.

However, Taft said there are indications that a higher number might materialize. “It’s hard to say but the way the crop is picking, there could be more volume out there (than first predicted).”

Good prices always tend to bring out volume and more fruit may materialize if the market stays strong says conventional wisdom.

Wedin believes growers should not sit on their fruit and wait for short supplies and a potentially higher grove price. He said Peru has a good crop of large fruit and as the fruit sits on the tree and sizes it will come up against some tough market competition. In addition, the Lamb Hass fruit that come off in July will be large. And Mexico’s off bloom crop is also looking to be fairly strong as the summer progresses.

“We believe growers should harvest some of those profits now,” Wedin said, adding that the movement on smaller fruit at retail has been very good.

Also waiting in the wings is the petition from growers in the Mexican state of Jalisco to be approved for shipping to the United States. “We are hearing that Jalisco will be approved soon,” said Wedin, echoing what many are saying. “By the beginning of the year, they could be impacting supplies.”

Wedin said in early June that the Calavo fieldmen are saying it’s a bit early to say anything definitive about the 2015 crop. There appears to be a good crop on the trees but the triple digit weather in May could have an impact. “The 2015 crop looked very good but then it got very hot and the people I am asking say they need a little more time to see what’s going to happen.”

In general, Wedin said it’s a great time to be involved in the avocado business. “Avocados are increasing their popularity every year. It’s great fun. It’s all positive.” 🥑

## Drought Impacts Feared

**A**s the drought continues, avocado growers across all production areas are feeling the impact.

In the Morro Bay region, many farmers are seeing their groundwater supplies severely depleted, and with no relief in sight many are being forced to harvest early. With increasing demand on the groundwater in Ventura County, the aquifers have seen diminishing levels and growers are grappling with how to allocate the existing supplies. In the south — while there is agency water available — it remains costly. Due to the lack of rainfall, southern region growers have had to increase water purchases or allow groves to remain under-irrigated. In the near term, if these drought conditions continue, growers within the Metropolitan Water District service area could likely face mandatory cutbacks on deliveries.

Over the last few weeks the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been forecasting a possible El Niño event for later this year, which may bring some much needed rainfall, although the two don’t necessarily coincide. As of this writing, Congress is working on drought relief legislation intended to cut red tape and increase operational flexibility for federal agencies, but it is unlikely it will lead to any easing of federal laws and regulations, included under the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Water Act. At best it may increase deliveries from

the State Water Project allocations, and possibly allow additional water transfers from Lake Powell into Lake Mead. Either of these actions could result in improved supplies for Metropolitan, which may delay any call for mandatory cutbacks. The California Avocado Commission remains committed on our Water Pricing Campaign with Metropolitan, but it has definitely been made even more difficult due to the drought emergency (read more about CAC’s Water Pricing Campaign in the Spring 2014 *From the Grove* issue).

### TSAWR Update for San Diego County

In 2012, the Commission successfully negotiated an extension of the Transitional Special Agricultural Water Rate (TSAWR) with the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) for a savings of \$283 per acre foot for agricultural rate payers. The current agreement is set to drop the TSAWR supply costs component of \$139 per acre foot on January 1, 2015. Commission representatives have been meeting with SDCWA staff and presenting before the SDCWA Administrative and Finance Committee over the last few months, and there seems to be support to extend the TSAWR “as is” through January 2016. The Commission will continue to work with the SDCWA board and staff to maintain the TSAWR. 🥑